

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

070951Z Mar 02

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ2893

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	IIP-00	PMB-00
	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/005W			

-----70E933 071434Z /48

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1123  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS HARARE 000600

SIPDIS

AF/PD FOR COX AND ROBERTSON, AF/S FOR KRAFT AND  
SCHLACHTER, AF/RA FOR SWANN, INR/R/MR, NSC FOR JENDAYI  
FRAZER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ZI](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ZIM PRESIDENTIAL POLL; HARARE

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1. UNDER HEADLINE "PLACING OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF  
VOTERS," THE INDEPENDENT "DAILY NEWS" DEDICATED ITS  
MARCH 7 EDITORIAL CRITICIZING APPARENT EFFORTS BY THE  
GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE TO MAKE VOTING IN URBAN AREAS  
MORE DIFFICULT. EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

"THE FAILURE BY BOTH THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S OFFICE  
AND THE ELECTORAL SUPERVISORY COMMISSION (ESC) TO  
ADVISE VOTERS PROPERLY ON THEIR RESPECTIVE WARDS AND  
POLLING STATIONS IS ONE OF MANY ATTEMPTS TO CONFUSE  
THE ELECTORATE AND PREDETERMINE THE OUTCOME OF THIS  
WEEKEND'S MAYORAL, MUNICIPAL AND PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTIONS. WITH JUST TWO DAYS TO GO BEFORE VOTING  
STARTS, THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF  
WHAT VOTERS SHOULD DO IN ORDER TO AVOID UNNECESSARY  
FRUSTRATION. IN THE CASE OF MAYORAL AND MUNICIPAL  
ELECTIONS IN CHITUNGWIZA AND HARARE, THE FAILURE MUST  
BE SEEN AS PART OF AN OVERALL STRATEGY TO CONFUSE THE  
ELECTORATE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE RULING PARTY, ZANU  
PF'S GRIP IN THE TWO MAJOR URBAN CENTERS DOES NOT  
SUFFER AN INGLORIOUS DEMISE.

".FORCED DISENFRANCHISEMENT IS ANOTHER WEAPON IN THE  
ARSENAL OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RULING PARTY. IN  
THE URBAN AREAS THE LIKELIHOOD OF MORE PEOPLE BEING  
TURNED AWAY IS GOING TO BE HIGHER THAN ELSEWHERE IN  
THE COUNTRY. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THE GOVERNMENT  
DOES NOT TRUST THE SUPPORT OF THE URBAN VOTERS AND  
THEY WILL BE DOING THEIR DAMNEDEST TO ENSURE CITY  
DWELLERS DO NOT HAVE A FAIR CHANCE OF VOTING. . . THE  
DEMAND FOR PROOF OF RESIDENCY IS YET ANOTHER OBSTACLE.

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. . THAT IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH GOVERNMENT HAS GONE  
IN ORDER TO SUBVERT THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO FREELY  
ELECT WHO SHOULD LEAD THIS COUNTRY."

SULLIVAN

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